



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
**Public Health**

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January 23, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bruce A. Chernof, M.D.  
Acting Director and Chief Medical Officer  
  
Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **PANDEMIC INFLUENZA FUNDING**

The Federal Department of Health and Human Services has announced the allocation of a one time \$350 million emergency appropriation to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for pandemic flu preparedness. The initial Los Angeles allocation from these funds is \$2.9 million, based on a population formula, and will be distributed as an augmentation to the existing CDC Bioterrorism cooperative agreement.

CDC plans to allocate the funding in two portions. The \$2.9 million is from the first \$100 million nationally, which will be released upon receipt of state and local applications documenting pandemic flu preparedness gaps and proposing activities to address them. We were informed that the urgency of getting these funds into state and local health departments dictates the necessity for a very short turn around: one week to ten days for the application. The CDC guidance for this application is expected imminently with the goal of releasing the funds by January 31. Public Health staff is preparing the components of an application in anticipation of these dates.

The initial funds are required to be obligated by August 30, 2006, which means that, at best, state and local health departments will only have seven months to spend those funds. CDC is recommending, because of the one time nature of the funding, that permanent personnel not be hired with these funds.

Given the extremely stringent timelines for this funding, and with the serious concerns about preparedness for pandemic flu, the Department of Health Services will request Board approval to implement this planning and expend these funds through a fiscal intermediary. Within the next two weeks we plan to file a Board letter for a February agenda, requesting acceptance of the funds and approval of an agreement with a fiscal intermediary to implement these activities.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let either of us know.

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PandemicFluJanuary23, 2006

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors